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# HISPANIC NEWS

The Inland Empire's only Hispanic-owned English language newspaper

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## PAT MEAGHER TO RUN FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



The Meagher family: (top row, l to r) Missy-one tour in Afghanistan, to be redeploy in August, 08, Mindy, pediatric physical therapist, doctoral candidate, wife Trish, Pat Meagher, Kevin, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, (middle row) Matthew, Army, Kara, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, (front row, l to r) Cameron, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Annabel, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Benjamin, 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Missing in photo, Will, residing in Alaska. Photo courtesy of Meagher family

The 41<sup>st</sup> Congressional District has added a candidate with a potential three candidates vying for the Democratic nominee at the June 3, 2008 elections.

Pat Meagher, a principal at Fontana Adult School, is vigorously campaigning in the vast congressional district encompassing the Loma Linda, Redlands, Highland, Twenty-Nine Palms, mountain areas, high desert and portions of Riverside County.

Jerry Lewis, (R), 41<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, was elected to Congress in 1978 and is the current incumbent.

Meagher has dedicated his lifetime career in education since receiving a B.S. in Education and M.A. in Speech and Theater from Ball State University, and pursued doctoral studies in Speech Communications at Purdue University in Indiana.

Following his formal education, Meagher taught in several high schools and at Ball University on speech and theater for over a decade.

As a lifelong Democrat, he also became involved in the teacher's union and its political action committee, pursuing a greater role of

the teaching profession in formulating policies at the local and state levels. "We developed a plan to dramatically improve the environment for teachers and students," he said.

In 1985, Meagher transferred to the Fontana School District where he taught at Fontana High School on speech and drama, later holding positions as student activities director, administrative designee, and summer school principal. In 2003, he became principal of the Fontana Adult School.

"I established a school curriculum where our adult bilingual students were able to acquire English efficiencies and other subjects, and establishing a successful school record," he said.

Meagher has been a member of major education associations including: California Teachers Association, Fontana Teachers Association, Association of California School Administrators, and many others education-related groups. He has also been actively involved in numerous community activities in the Fontana area.

Meagher has received the Children's Fund "Santa of the Year, PTSA Outstanding Teacher of the Year, ISTA Communication Award in 1982 and 1983.

Meagher had been dissatisfied in the direction that educational policies and important national and regional issues have been enacting that has affecting the region. "In reviewing our political situation regarding our local congressional representation, I felt that a change must occur to improve our representation, mainly due to the lack of meeting the many local needs of our citizens, and made the decision to run in the congressional election," he said.

His previous political experience dictated a plan of action to become actively involved in Democratic activities in the region, considering the huge expanse of the congressional district, a challenging task. He has spoken in every Democratic club in

Continue on page 6

## RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DELIVERS ANNUAL EDUCATION UPDATE



Staff from Mecca Elementary School, which had the largest API point gain in the county for one year during 2007, at the Education Briefing, from left, Blanca Ramirez, reading coach; Manuela Silvestre, Principal; Priscilla Morales, first-grade teacher; Elena Ceyala, fifth-grade teacher; and Fernando Murillo, student facilitator. RCOE Superintendent of Schools Kenneth M. Young in back. Photo courtesy of RCOE

Kenneth M. Young, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, on February 27, 2008, highlighted the academic achievement of Riverside County schools against the backdrop of state budget cuts during his annual education briefing "State of Education in Riverside County."

The event at the Riverside County Office of Education was attended by more than 100 schoolteachers, principals, students, and administrators from districts around the county.

In addition, local legislative leaders and community members were on hand to hear how Riverside County schools continue to grow in enrollment and test scores are also on the rise.

The county's enrollment is slowing but has passed the 422,000 mark, Young said. Riverside County has the fourth largest enrollment in the state. Riverside County's population passed the 2 million mark.

The Riverside County Office of Education is serving more than 30,000 students in 450 classrooms at 162 different school sites. RCOE offers programs in Special Education, Career Technical Education, and Alternative Education.

Young highlighted schools and

districts that have shown significant gains measured by the Academic Performance Index. Riverside County schools have increased 127 points on the API scale since 1999.

Romoland School District had the most growth in eight years with 196 points, followed by Coachella Valley Unified with 182. Two schools hit the 900 mark on the API - Abby Reinke

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## CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY HEALTH REFORM TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR HEALTH

An Essay by Erica Quevedo-Special to the Inland Empire Hispanic News

With over 45 million Americans uninsured, health care reform has quickly ascended on public policy agendas both nationally and locally. In California alone 6.6 million Californians are lacking health care insurance, which is more than 20% of the total population.<sup>2</sup> "2007" was declared the year of health care reform in California, and with over three bills on the table the legislators failed to pass anything. Polarization and the bureaucratic process have often impeded the legislature's ability to do well. Californians can no longer wait for health care reform to come, as Benjamin Jowett would say, it is time to take action.

Taking action is often done best when you start in your own backyard. The current debate over health care reform in Sacramento obscures several vital questions at the local level, which are, frankly, beyond the reach of the political/legislative process. This is where the responsibility must be shared with the citizens.

### Our Backyard:

San Bernardino County is one of the largest and fastest growing counties throughout California and the United States. San Bernardino County's steady growth often reflects

population and other demographic trends for the greater California, and yet, the county has struggled to efficiently address the health conditions and the quality of health services provided to its residents.

In 2004 the U.S. Census estimated that 20.4% of San Bernardino County's population was uninsured. Of the 15.4% that live below the poverty line, 19% are children under the age of 18 years; this is more than California's average of 13.2% living below the poverty line. In 2006 11.8% of the population 64 years and younger are disabled or suffering from a disability. Since the first reporting of an HIV/AIDS case in 1983 in San Bernardino County, the number of HIV/AIDS cases has peaked, making it the county with the eighth largest number of cases in California.<sup>3</sup>

While this is just a glimpse at some of the statistics of San Bernardino County it becomes clear that health is just one part of many policy initiatives that are desperately needed to promote not only reform, but ultimately a better standard of life for those living in the county. Certainly improved policies towards education, poverty/HIV/AIDS reduction, crime reduction, economic development and even environmental health would be helpful, but amongst these policy challenges health can be identified as a contributing factor to these social conditions.

While public health services are administered through Federal, State, and County programs, there is now, more than ever, a need for citizen engagement and shared responsibility to improve the accessibility, utilization, and overall effectiveness of these programs. The countywide health dilemma must be addressed on multiple fronts; there must be initiatives at both the Federal and State level, as well as within the counties, cities, and most importantly the local communities.

### Engaging Residents of San Bernardino in Health Care Improvement:

There has been considerable momentum within San Bernardino

County to address health care reform as a result of the statewide initiatives. Town hall meetings, events such as California Speaks and the workings of non-profit organizations like Latino Health Collaborative, Inland CADE, San Bernardino Children's Health Initiative Program (SCHIP), and Inland Empire Healthy Families have kept health care at the tip of our tongues.

This momentum should be expanded with a countywide "Health Summit" to re-start the "year of health care reform." This summit would bring together politicians, community organizations, and the citizens themselves. The community will be presented with the health status of San Bernardino; non-biased information will reflect the statistics, the budget problems, future projections, and policies that are currently supporting the health care infrastructure within the county. It will also present the initiatives of the non-profit sector and testimonies from community members. Upon this completion the leaders will unveil their proposal for sustaining this civically engaged collaborative.

Realizing that health has larger widespread effects on education, environment, crime, and economic development the Health Summit would expand the deliberative

dialogues into smaller sub-districts of the community. Using these "local resources," controls costs, but also enhances the credibility of the process.

While this Study Circle-like methodology heavily relies on citizen participation, it is the hope that all people realize the growing importance of shared responsibility in America's democracy. The political process has often showed an inability to effectively create much needed policy change in health care reform, but now is the time for citizens to take action and initiate the winds of change within their own backyards.

Resources:

To contract Erika Quevedo-(909)-717-7116

### (Endnotes)

Benjamin Jowett,  
[www.quoteland.com](http://www.quoteland.com)  
California Health Foundation,  
Employee Benefit Research  
Institute Survey 2006,  
<http://www.chcf.org/documents/insurance/2006CPS.xls>  
[www.bienestar.org](http://www.bienestar.org)  
data source: California Department  
of Health Services, Office of AIDS,  
HIV/AIDS Case Registry Section  
**Bowling Alone:**  
Robert Putnam, Simon & Schuster  
Paperbacks, 2000, pg 21

## SUMMER CLASSES AT CSUSB: A GREAT WAY TO GET A HEADSTART AND STAY ON TRACK

SAN BERNARDINO – College students hoping to get ahead of schedule or just take an extra class to stay on track for graduation can enroll for summer courses at Cal State San Bernardino. The university is currently accepting applications for the 2008 summer term.

Admission is open to current Cal State San Bernardino students and those who have been accepted for the fall, as well as qualified students who attend other colleges and universities and are looking to take courses during the summer.

Interested students should visit <http://admissions.csusb.edu/summer.html> for more information. Separate application forms are available for students who have been admitted to or have already submitted an application for fall 2008 at CSUSB but want to start their courses early, as well as for "visiting" students from other institutions who are interested in summer courses at CSUSB.

"There are great pros for taking a

summer course," said Cynthia Olivo, CSUSB associate director of admissions and student recruitment. "Many students can get a jump start on classes before fall or take courses in order to stay on track to graduate in a timely manner."

Beyond that, students shouldn't have to worry about the perils of finding parking, dealing with heavy traffic, or having to walk a great distance to get to class.

The regular 10-week summer session begins June 18 and ends Aug. 28. However, students can choose to participate in accelerated six-week sessions, which take place at two intervals, June 18-July 24 and July 28-Sep 3. Information about the summer calendar is available at <http://www.csusb.edu/aboutCSUSB/AcademicCalendar.aspx>.

For more information about Cal State San Bernardino, contact the university's Office of Public Affairs at (909) 537-5007 and visit <http://news.csusb.edu>.



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## RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DELIVERS ANNUAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Continued from page 1

Elementary in Temecula Valley Unified and Victoriano Elementary in the Val Verde Unified School District.

Mecca Elementary School had the largest API increase in one year at 79 points; Coombs Middle School in Banning Unified had the most growth for middle schools with 81 points; and Jurupa Valley High School was the most improved high school with 57 points.

Young singled out Ortega High School in Lake Elsinore, recently named as a Model Continuation High School in the state.

Van Buren Elementary School in the Desert Sands Unified School District was recognized for a 363 point gain in eight years; Jefferson Middle School in Desert Sands grew by 245 points in eight years; and Rancho Verde High School in Val Verde Unified grew by 150 points in eight years.

Young congratulated Alvord Unified (\$196 million), Menifee Union (\$31.5 million) and Palm Springs Unified (\$516 million) for passing local bonds to build schools.

He singled out Dr. Jay Hoffman, Superintendent for the Nuview Union School District, for winning the Ferd Kiesel Award from the Association of California School Administrators, and for Nuview Union winning a Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association for its "Preschool for All" program.

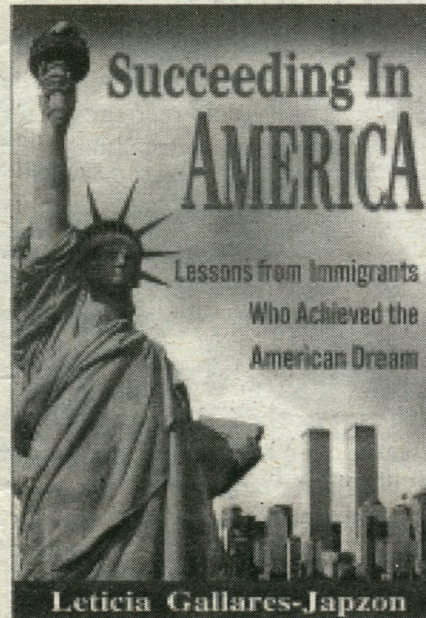
Three other districts received Golden Bell Awards – Senior Exhibition, Riverside Unified's North High School; Banning Unified's New Horizons High School Peace Crew United; and Corona-Norco Unified's Library Program at Susan B. Anthony Elementary School.

Young congratulated Hemet High School for winning the county Academic Decathlon for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row. He highlighted RCOE's new Education Leadership Services Division, the conversion of Regional Occupational Programs to Career Technical Education, and a program called "Capturing Kids Hearts" to help students remain in school.

Young cited proposed education budget cuts of \$4 billion, saying it would amount to about \$800 per child or \$320 million for county schools. At the same time, county schools are under pressure to meet the mandates of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The state has 97 districts facing sanctions under the NCLB law, including one in Riverside County.

"Those funding cuts and that delay (in new funding) will be disastrous to public education and they're inconsistent with the public's continuing mandate to improve student achievement," Young said.

## SUCCEEDING IN AMERICA By Leticia (Letty) Gallares-Japzon



Philippines in 1971 and has lived in the Washington, DC area since. She has an MA in education and human development from George Washington University and an MA in human Resources management from Marymount University.

Letty currently works as an independent management consultant and freelance writer. She has worked as a strategy and benchmarking manager at Xerox Corporation and has held positions in instructional design and development at both Xerox and the World Bank. She lives in Ashburn, Virginia with her husband Eddie.

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*Succeeding in America* is not just for immigrants; it's a valuable reference for anyone who wants to overcome obstacles and achieve success. It's also a useful resource for human resource managers and any organization that relies on immigrants as part of its workforce.

### About the Author

Leticia (Letty) Gallares-Japzon came to America from the

## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, PARENTS CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN AT CSUSB

SAN BERNARDINO – Families who want their children to start thinking about college early can find support when Cal State San Bernardino hosts "College: Making It Happen," Thursday, March 20.

"College: Making It Happen" provides speakers and information to students in hopes of educating, motivating and inspiring students to go to college after they finish high school. Middle school students, parents, teachers and counselors are encouraged to attend.

The event will be held in CSUSB's Santos Manuel Student Union from

6 to 8 p.m. Complimentary parking will be offered in Lot D. To make reservations, R.S.V.P by calling (909) 537-5188 before March 10.

For more information about "College: Making It Happen," visit the California Round Table Intersegmental Coordinating Committee Web page at [www.certicc.org](http://www.certicc.org).

For more information about Cal State San Bernardino, contact the university's Office of Public Affairs at (909) 537-5007 and visit <http://news.csusb.edu>.

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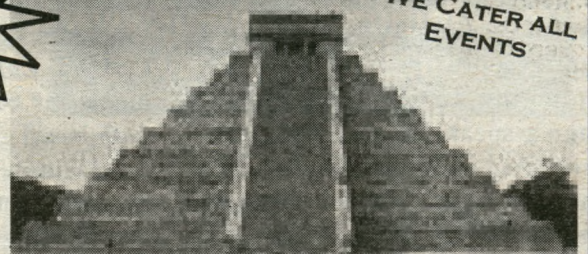
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## MARIAELENA HUIZAR-PARENT INVOLVEMENT A PRIORITY



Parent involvement in the education of children is the key to a student's success in the school system and a pathway to higher education.

This is the mission of Mariaelena Huizar, a dedicated professional educator who strongly advocates the parent's dual role support of educational institutions and the assurance that their children acquire the learning skills to achieve individual educational goals.

Huizar was born in Austin, Texas, in a family of six siblings and the first to graduate from a university.

Working in an educational environment for 26 years, Huizar has lived in Farmington, Utah and Zaragoza, Spain as a military wife of Major Daniel Huizar for 37 years, her childhood sweetheart.

"My primary interest has been in the development of a young mind in preparation into higher educational levels, especially in the beginning of their basic elementary education. And importantly, the role of the parent's direct involvement in the education of their children's education is of paramount importance," Huizar said.

Huizar has a B. A. in Arts in Liberal Studies with a minor in Spanish from Cal-State, San Bernardino. She is currently enrolled in a master's program at CSUSB.

Huizar's experience includes public school systems programming, early childhood education, community liaison, bilingual instruction, and health/education-related programs.

In Zaragoza, Spain, Huizar implementing programs, assisting families in transitioning into the Spanish culture; serving as mediator and translator in health services in Spanish community hospitals and Spanish courts; preschool teacher, conducting English classes for Spanish-speaking parents of pre-schoolers; and translator for American none-Spanish speaking families.

Huizar's extended services at the military base also included chapel programs, choir, parish council, CCD teacher, high school youth advisor,

and served as president of the Catholic Women of the Chapel. The Huizar family was recognized for their outstanding contribution to the Zaragoza Air Force Base community.

In Utah, Huizar was parent/school liaison for the Migrant Education Program, administering student placement testing, bilingual programs and related services to ELL students.

Residing in the High Desert, Huizar worked in parent/school liaison: Community Liaison for the Healthy/Schools/Health Communities, ESL/SSL classes, home visitation program; supplemental reading programs; parent tutoring programs, and GED preparation class, among others.

In 1995, Huizar was appointed program specialist in the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office. She designed and implemented an array of programs: parent/family training/education projects; developed trainer-of-trainers seminars; staff/parent programs; created a network among community agencies, schools, and districts to ensure parental/family involvement, among others.

The Parent Symposium in a three-county consortium by Huizar and other education professionals attracted hundreds of families and parents from throughout Southern California. The series of successful conferences greatly enhanced the goal of parent participation in children's education.

Huizar became an independent consultant in 2007, establishing the Family Involvement Training (FIT) for Student Success. The successful education enterprise consists of training in school/family/community partnerships, ILAC/FRLSV/DDV, parent policy development, parent/coordinators/liaison-staff trainer and family involvement=student achievement training. She has an extensive client list including school districts, governmental agencies, and faith-base groups.

Huizar, a motivational speaker, is in demand among school districts and conferences, and has spoken on critical education issues before governmental agencies.

The recipient of numerous awards, Huizar received the U.S Department of Education-Parent Title 1/Title 1 Programs, CSUSB Education Award, CSUST Leadership Award, and numerous educational entities and faith-based groups.

Mariaelena Huizar and her husband, retired Air Force Major David Huizar are the parents of Andrea Maria, Anna Maria, Daniel II, and grandsons, Erik Allen and Anthony Miguel.

## ROSA ELENA SAHAGÚN-IMMIGRANT FROM MEXICO- DEFIED THE STATISTICS BECOMING A SUCCESSFUL ATTORNEY

*By Rafael Aguilar-special to the IEHN*



Born in a small rural town in the state of Jalisco, Mexico, Inland Empire Attorney Rosa Elena Sahagún has defied the odds— as a teenager she became a single mother and now finds herself at the helm of her own law practice in the city of Riverside.

Attorney Sahagún grew up in Santa Ana, CA where she still makes a yearly pilgrimage to Santa Ana High School in an effort inspire students to stay in school. It was during her high school career that she gave birth to her son, Ramiro, now 16. While balancing motherhood and a job, Ms. Sahagún attended Chapman University where she graduated with honors in 2002 and passed the state bar examination the same year.

At an early age, Ms. Sahagún recognized the many challenges that lay ahead for her and for her son and as such, she decided to face the adversities of obtaining her legal degree.

Prior to graduating from law

school she found herself volunteering with Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association (IELLA) where she would later serve as a member of the board of directors. She is still a volunteer attorney with the organization.

After law school, Attorney Sahagún worked for (IELLA) and then for Rose, Klein and Marias, LLP's Ontario office. In 2006, Attorney Sahagún opened up her own practice in the City of Riverside. She currently sits on the board of directors of Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Latino Network. More recently Ms. Sahagún began to reach out to the community in a Spanish language radio show, co-hosted by Rafael Aguilar, serving the Inland Empire. In addition to legal topics, Ms. Sahagún reaches out to the Hispanic community about critical issues — politics, community involvement, and education, to name a few. Education is, indeed, the cornerstone of her message to our youth.

"The large number of young people of color that drop out of school and populate our jails and prisons is alarming" Sahagún said on her radio show in KDIF-1440 AM - Live on Saturdays at 10:00 am.

"We have to challenge the youth to become better educated so that we may become empowered as a community. The excuses are many; I reject every single one."

Rosa Elena Sahagún is living proof that if there is a will there is a way.

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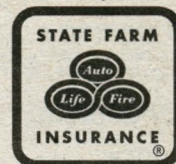
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## THE LOPEZ FAMILY-THE EPITOME OF A TRADITION FAMILY



Jesus and Nellie Lopez

Many Hispanic families have deep roots in San Bernardino, arriving in the late 1800's and early 1900's, immigrants from Mexico coming to the United States for either economic reasons or escaping the upheaval and tyranny of civil governments. These families brought forth the rich traditions of family values and unity, religious faith, hard work, and integrity.

The Lopez family is one of these families that settled in the region, ultimately residing in San Bernardino.

Jesus B. Lopez was born on February 5, 1909 in Zacatecas, Mexico, to Zacharias and Juanita Lopez. At the age of three months, his parents immigrated to California.

Manuela de la Paz (Nellie) was born in San Bernardino on January 25, 1915, to Nicholas and Guadalupe Torres.

Jesus and Nellie were married by the Church on July, 1931, and settling in Cucamonga (as it was known), where Jesus worked at La Mission as a grape picker.

In 1932, Frances was born, followed by Dolores, who died a few days after her birth. In 1934, the family moved to San Bernardino where Rosalinda, Hortencia, Nicholas (the only son), Consuelo, Socorro, Yolanda, Lucia, and Anna Maria were born.

Nellie took care of her large family, while Jesus worked at Arrowhead Springs as a gardener for 10 years, and later worked at Kaiser Steel in Fontana for 30 years.

During the growing-up years, life was not easy for the Lopez children, due to the depression before, and following World War II, daughter Lucia said, however, the remembrance of a loving home environment in the close-knit family was very fulfilling.

The parents instilled traditional values, respect toward each other and to others, work hard and also traits to become good parents. Nellie taught her children by example more so than



The Lopez family: (front row, l to r) Frances, Mother Nellie, Rosalinda, Yolanda. (Back row, l to r) Anna Maria, Lucia, Consuelo, Nickolas, Socorro, Hortencia. Father Jesus B. Lopez died in 1973.. Photo courtesy of the Lopez family.

lecturing.

The paternal and maternal grandmothers, Lupe and Juanita, were an integral part of the Lopez family and played a role when the children were growing up. They were influential in transitioning their Hispanic culture, thinking and behavioral etiquette. The siblings either lived with the maternal grandmother Guadalupe or paternal grandmother Juanita during their growing-up years.

The parents also instilled the importance of education, and in spite of outer influences, were proud that the children graduated from high school. At a later date, Rosalinda received an M.A. in Education and Lucia received a B.A. in Administration.

The siblings worked in varied professional fields: administrative assistant, bilingual instructional aides, bilingual tutors, bilingual speech/language education assistant, Head Start teacher's aide, kindergarten teacher, and assistant affirmative action officer. Nickolas works in a construction supplies business.

In 2007, a reunion was organized and a commemorative album reflected memoirs on the sibling's experiences growing up in a large family. The reunion was attended by family members, two uncles, and a dear friend (sister) Argy Brogdon.

Frances, (deceased October, 1992 memoir was written by her children) was a very responsible and helpful in the household, and began working at an early age. She recalls dating Felix Alva, her future husband and grandmother was the chaperone, with Frances bribing her with sweets. Frances was also very supportive of her siblings and grandchildren in their time of need.

Nickolas: "I used to torment my sisters, and getting into trouble: shooting Socorro (Sookie) with a BB gun, making a hole in the bathroom for myself and sisters to sneak out while my parents were entertaining guests. I was very fond of both my grandmothers. With all of us, I don't see how my parents managed. We didn't have a lot, but we had everything we needed. Being a parent now, I truly appreciate them being able to provide for us."

Rosalinda: "I remember Grandma Ita taking us to the Valley Ballroom every Saturday and to the theater. I am very grateful to God for all he has given me and I am very proud of all members of my family."

Hortencia: "I remember Mom and Dad were the best parents a family could ever hope for. They gave so much love to all of us and the love they had for each other."

Socorro: "I remember Mom and Dad always having parties with friends, singing all the Mexican songs. Mom would make our clothes for school and they were nice. Also, I enjoyed growing up with Nick and Connie."

Consuelo: "I remember a close family with my sisters and brother, grandmas, and our two uncles eating together with Mom and Dad. I

remember Mom driving us to Bloomington to pick grapes and driving fast to see us laugh."

Yolanda: "I remember myself, Pumpkin, Peaches and the Luna boys playing in the back yard and cutting figs off the tree and Grandma Ita giving us sugar and raisins to make jelly."

Lucia: "I remember Grandma Ita being sick, and Yolie and I being with her. Yolie woke up and checked on Grandma and ran to the front house. My mother picked me up gently, took me to her bed and told me that Grandma needed to sleep (passed away). This event could be traumatic, but Mom's compassion and love turned it into a beautiful life's event."

Anna Maria: "I enjoyed waking up to the smell of tortillas; waiting for my Dad to come home after work to hug him; my mother running her finger's through my Dad's hair while watching TV; watching Grandma Lupe praying to her favorite saints; going places with my sisters and their families. I will always be grateful to be part of a huge family that filled any void in my life and created a special bond, and thankful for being a special part of my fondest childhood memories."

Jesus B. Lopez passed away two years after his well-deserved retirement at age 64.

Manuela de la Paz (Nellie) died in December, 2000.

Jesus and Nellie Lopez' siblings have emulated their family experiences into personal and professional productive lives and role models in their respective communities.

The Lopez generational legacy extends to 31 grandchildren, 74 great-great grandchildren, and 33 great-great-great grandchildren.

*The Inland Empire Hispanic News thanks Lucia Negrete for her assistance in collaborating with family history and photos.*

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## STUDENTS ORGANIZE FORUM ON IRAQ WAR ON MARCH 2-THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF POLITICAL FORUMS ON UCR CAMPUS

RIVERSIDE, CA. — Students at the University of California, Riverside have scheduled a free public forum to discuss the Iraq War at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 6, in room 1020 of Interdisciplinary Building North (INTN), located near the Arts building. All are welcome to voice their opinions, comments, concerns, and questions.

"We want to inform the students at the university and members of the community on the war efforts that are taking place half a world away," said Remigio "Tony" Torres, one of the student organizers. "We invite organizations to set up information tables as well."

Speakers include Peter Dudar and Sally Marr from Arlington West, an organization of veterans for peace, who also will show a 27-minute film during the forum highlighting a veteran's memorial set up each Sunday at the Santa Monica pier.

The group "Iraq Veterans Against the War" will send two speakers, Agustin and Helga Aguayo.

The organization Gold Star Families Speak Out will send Vickie Castro to speak on behalf of their organization. The organization is made up of families of those who have sacrificed their lives in the war effort.

This is the second forum organized

by the students of Professor Armando Navarro, as part of a class about engaging in political issues. Navarro said the goal of the assignment is to give students experience-based learning opportunities that will challenge, educate, and inspire them.

Parking on campus requires a permit. The nearest parking is in Lot 1 and 2. After 4 p.m., permits can be purchased for \$5. Campus parking kiosks at the entrances can also sell permits.

Information about the event is available from the organizers at (323) 610-4657.

The University of California, Riverside is a doctoral research university, a living laboratory for groundbreaking exploration of issues critical to Inland Southern California, the state and communities around the world. Reflecting California's diverse culture, UCR's enrollment of about 17,000 is projected to grow to 21,000 students by 2010. The campus is planning a medical school and already has reached the heart of the Coachella Valley by way of the UCR Palm Desert Graduate Center. With an annual statewide economic impact of nearly \$1 billion, UCR is actively shaping the region's future. To learn more, visit [www.ucr.edu](http://www.ucr.edu) or call (951) UCR-NEWS.

## PAT MEAGHER TO RUN FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

*Continued from page 1*

the area, is a member of the Redlands Democratic Club, and involved in a candidate's forum.

The primary issues Meagher has addressed in his campaign are education, economy, healthcare, Iraq War, and the environment. "A critical local issue among others, is the

expansion of our road systems, where we are decades behind in meeting the challenges of increased traffic congestion," he said.

Pat Meagher and his wife, Trish, reside in Forest Falls. There are nine children in the family, seven are adopted and two are in the service.

## REP. BACA RECEIVES A 100% SCORE FROM NAACP ON VOTING RECORD

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) has received a 100% score and an A grade from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), in its recently released evaluation of Congress. The NAACP, our nation's oldest and most widely-recognized grassroots civil rights organization, compiled a legislative scorecard evaluating Senators and Members of Congress on issues relating to civil rights.

Based on his votes on priority issues identified by the NAACP, Rep. Baca received the A grade, reflecting his ongoing commitment to securing basic civil rights and providing a better quality of life for all Americans.

"I take pride in representing California's 43<sup>rd</sup> District. Our district is increasingly diverse and includes a sizable African-American and Hispanic population. Minorities play an active and important role in our community and enrich our district with a strong work ethic, culture, and family values," said Rep. Baca. "I appreciate being recognized by the NAACP for my work to advance equal rights for all Americans."

The NAACP report card is based on votes taken on key civil rights issues in the first session of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress (2007), and includes measures on important issues such as the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, increasing the national minimum wage, and preventing hate crimes. On every vote scored by the NAACP in

2007, Rep. Baca voted in favor of social justice and increasing opportunities for all Americans.

"I will continue to address the issues that are important to families in the Inland Empire and across our great nation — improving education to open the doors of opportunity, providing access to affordable health care, and giving all families the tools they need to succeed," said Rep. Baca.

Rep. Baca currently serves as the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, as well as Chair of the Caucus' Corporate America, Technology, Communications, and the Arts Task Force, which aims to increase minority representation in corporate America and make sure that businesses support minority organizations and causes. Rep. Baca also serves as Co-Chair of the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus, along with Reps. Barbara Lee, John Conyers, and Mike Honda.

## CSUSB ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING TERM

SAN BERNARDINO, CA — Cal State San Bernardino is accepting applications for the 2008 spring term.

Interested students should apply online via [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu). CSUMentor is a web-based system that helps students plan and apply to the CSU online.

Prospective students are also encouraged to meet with an admissions counselor by calling (909) 537-5188. Counselors are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Each session is 30 minutes and walk-in appointments are available.

For more information, contact the university's Office of Public Affairs at (909) 537-5007 and visit <http://news.csusb.edu>.

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pull you up  
over y high—y ou lose  
your grip on  
the rope.  
But on y our own  
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Louis Brandeis

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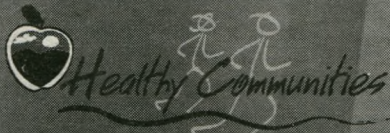


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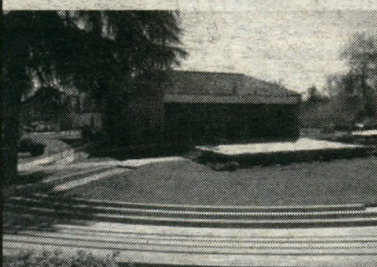


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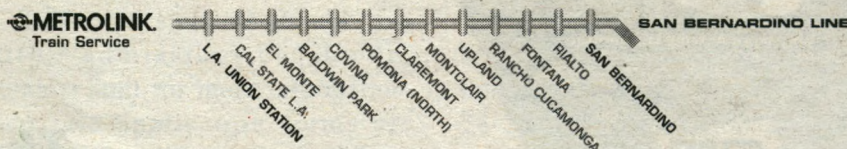
**\*VIP Reception**—A limited number of VIP tickets have been allocated for this event. The reception begins at 1:30 p.m. in the SBVC Campus Center where guests will meet-and-greet Brenton Wood, Al Wilson and Rudy & Steve Salas of Tierra. The reception includes wine and exquisite hors d'oeuvres and will conclude with a Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony hosted by the SBVC Alliance for the Arts. A portion of this \$100 ticket (\$50) is a tax deductible donation.

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